

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD MET ON MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2013 AT 8.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Liz Chalmers, Alison Fairley, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Mary Hynd, Jean Gordon, Crofton Palmer, Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson, Ian Welsh

Apologies: Ros Fraser, Yvonne Paterson

The Rev Mike Frew welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Bible reading and a prayer.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 21st October were approved.

3 Finance

Weekly offerings by members have continued to be increased although there have been a couple stopped. We won't see the benefit of any increase yet as this only happened towards the end of the year. It is predicted that the deficit by the end of the year will be £1947. However, there is enough in the bank to pay outstanding bills for the repair to the boiler and roof and any standing orders. It may not be possible to pay back the £1200 taken from the legacy fund by the end of the year, it may have to be at the start of the year. This will be discussed at the first meeting of 2014. Liz and Crofton were tasked with finding a less expensive auditor for the 2013 accounts. One company has been approached but said they were not able to better the deal we already have. Liz has acquired the name of a company, Hollis Accounting who already work with other charities and churches and will approach them. If the second company are no less expensive than Johnston Smillie we will stay with them but if Hollis Accounting are cheaper it has been agreed by the Board that Liz can change the company as this will need to be in place before our next meeting. The papers for the new contract for organ tuning have now been signed. The Board discussed the budget for 2014, there are no major changes although we are relying heavily on fundraising. It is hoped that we will be able to raise £5,239 through fundraising events and £3,000 through a gift day. It was decided to hold the gift day on Saturday 21st June 2014. This will be advertised in Kirk News. It was also agreed to publicise to the congregation the financial situation each month so income and expenditure will be shown in the weekly notices as well as Kirk News. There was a request from The Easter Play for us to support them again for 2014. It was decided that we would hold a retiral offering at the start of Lent, Sunday 9th March

4 SAM – The date of the stated annual meeting was fixed for Sunday 23rd March after the morning service. The Board and Session will hold a joint meeting on Monday 3rd March at 7pm before the Session meeting at 7.30 to approve the accounts

5 Property

Church and Halls – Bryan Baillie has offered to give a tutorial to the beadles on how to test the **fire alarms** as this should be done weekly. The fire exit signs will be removed from the vestry area as the exit to the memorial garden is not really a suitable escape in case of a fire. The emergency lights will remain. Garvald have been in touch and will meet with Angie to collect keys and look over the **memorial garden** with the group with a view to starting work in January. The **wall heaters** are still often being left on overnight so Angie will, again, get in touch with the groups who use the rooms and put up signs reminding people to turn them off before leaving. There was water coming in through the **roof** in the session room. This was thought to be standing water that was dislodged because of the high winds, there has been a temporary repair which should last until the better weather but will need to be fixed properly, JM Builders will provide a quote and one will be sought from another company before the work goes ahead. There was water coming into the **activities hall**, this was due to a football lodged in the downpipe and has been sorted by JM Builders. Elite will have a look at the

Comment [A1]: There is also a fire exit sign at the door itself

rendering that needs to be repaired at the top of the tower, hopefully they can fix it without the use of scaffolding. HF Group have previously provided a quote of £405 to fit an **air thermostat** in the activities hall which will cut out the heating when the temperature is right. It was agreed to go ahead with this as it will save money on heating in the long run. The frame on the outside of the **kitchen window** is rotting. Jean Gordon will ask Frank to repair it. Mike reported to the Board that there is no plan in place if the **cleaner** is off sick for any length of time. It was agreed to rely on volunteers to help keep the place clean and tidy.

Manse – A repair has been made to the chimney in the back bedroom.

6 National Stewardship Programme

Mike reported that Audrey McIntyre and Claire Fleming are willing to join the committee. A meeting will be arranged in the new year.

7 Hall Lets

The music club have requested an additional weekly let. The AA will go ahead with their Hogmanay party. There is an average of one private let for parties a month. The Guides have started back on a Monday night.

8 Action Plan The mission audit is still in process and a report will be available in January

9 Report from Session

Nothing to report from Session

10 Correspondence

The Church of Scotland are holding one day seminars on fabric needs and issues and giving advice on funding in March. Angie Simpson has agreed to attend

11 Any Other Business

- Mike reported that he has someone interested copying the weekly notices
- Two names have been suggested for the **vacancy** of the elected member. Lin agreed to ask Clare Fleming if she would be willing to become a member of the Board.
- Ian Welsh and Dennise Brown offered to be the welcome committee for the service on Christmas Eve and Liz Chalmers offered for Christmas Day.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The dates of the next meetings are as follows:

17th February 2014

3rd March 2014 (7pm for half an hour before Session meeting to approve accounts)

7th April 2014

16th June 2014

Mondays at 8pm with committees meeting at 7.15pm for a trial period

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm with each blessing the others.